

REMARKSStatus of the Claims

Claims 6-22, 24, 31 and 32 are currently pending.

Non-elected claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled, without prejudice to being refiled in a divisional application.

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 23 had previously been cancelled, and claims 25-30 have been cancelled herein.

Claims 19, 24, 31 and 32 have been currently amended without introducing new matter.

Objection to the Specification

The specification has been objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter on the ground that the subject matter of claims 31 and 32 is not recited on the specification. The Examiner has helpfully suggested amendments to the specification to overcome this objection, and the specification has been amended accordingly herein. Other minor editorial changes have been made to paragraphs 0020, 0040 and 0046. No new matter has been introduced.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Double Patenting

Claims 25-30 have been objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75 as being substantial duplicates of claims 17-22. Claims 25-30 have been cancelled herein.

Claim 24, which previously was dependent upon claim 27, has been amended to depend from claim 19.

Withdrawal of the objection for duplicate claiming is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 17-22 have been objected to because of a minor informality in line 10 of independent claim 19. This informality has been corrected herein.

Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 31 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite on the ground of alleged "antecedent basis problems" in those claims. Applicants' have amended claims 31 and 32 herein in the manner suggested by the Examiner to overcome this rejection. Such amendments clarify the meaning of the claims without narrowing the scope thereof.

Withdrawal of the § 112 rejection(s) is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 6-16 is respectfully acknowledged.

As noted above, claim 24 has been made dependent upon allowable independent claim 19.

The informality noted in claims 17-22 has been eliminated.

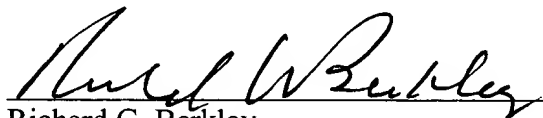
Claims 31 and 32 have been amended to overcome the §112 rejection(s). Each is dependent upon allowed claim 10.

PATENT

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, all of pending claims 6-22, 24, 31 and 32 are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of the application to patent is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard G. Berkley", written over a horizontal line.

Richard G. Berkley
PTO Reg. No. 25,465
Attorney for Applicant
(212) 408-2554